

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for forwarding an incoming telephone call from a first number to a second number, said method comprising:

receiving said incoming telephone call by a processing system;

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sending a message to a user device for routing information regarding said incoming telephone call;

receiving routing information from said user device

- 15 responsive to said message; and

transferring said incoming telephone call in accordance with said routing information.

- 20 2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said routing information includes said second number, whereby said incoming telephone call is thereafter transferred to said second number.

- 25 3. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein after said receiving, said method further includes accessing processing information, said processing information including an access method for said user device.

- 30 4. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said user device is a wireless device.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said user device includes input means for enabling said user to input information, said information including said second number.

5 6. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said wireless device is a cell phone.

7. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said wireless device is a two-way pager device.

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8. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said wireless device is a computing device.

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9. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said wireless device is a laptop computer.

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10. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said processing information includes information determinative of whether said sending occurs or whether said incoming telephone call is transferred to a default processing system without said sending of said message to said user device.

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11. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said default processing system is a voice mail processing system.

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12. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including playing a recorded message to a caller of said incoming telephone call for at least a portion of time during said sending.

13. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including transferring said incoming telephone call to a voice mail processing system if said routing information is not received within a predetermined period of time after said
5 sending.

14. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including determining if said routing information includes a valid second number prior to said transferring.

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15. The method as set forth in claim 14 and further including transferring said incoming telephone call to a voice mail processing system if said routing information does not include a valid second number.

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16. A storage medium including machine readable coded indicia, said storage medium being selectively coupled through a reading device to processing circuitry within a computing system, said reading device being selectively
20 operable to read said machine readable coded indicia and provide program signals representative thereof, said program signals being effective to enable a forwarding of an incoming telephone call from a first number to a second number, said program signals being selectively operable for
25 effecting steps of:

receiving said incoming telephone call by a processing system;

30 sending a message to a user device for routing information regarding said incoming telephone call;

receiving routing information from said user device
responsive to said message; and

transferring said incoming telephone call in accordance with
5 said routing information.

17 ~~16~~. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said routing
information includes said second number, whereby said
incoming telephone call is thereafter transferred to said
10 second number.

18 ~~17~~. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein after said
receiving, said steps further include accessing processing
information, said processing information including an access
15 method for said user device.

19 ~~18~~. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said user
device is a wireless device.

20 ~~20~~ ~~19~~. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said user
device includes input means for enabling said user to input
information, said information including said second number.

21 ~~20~~. The medium as set forth in claim 18 wherein said
25 wireless device is a cell phone.

22 ~~21~~. The medium as set forth in claim 18 wherein said
wireless device is a two-way pager device.

30 ~~23~~ ~~22~~. The medium as set forth in claim 18 wherein said
wireless device is a computing device.

21 23. The medium as set forth in claim 18 wherein said
wireless device is a laptop computer.

25 24. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said
5 processing information includes information determinative of
whether said sending occurs or whether said incoming
telephone call is transferred to a default processing system
without said sending of said message to said user device.

10 26 25. The medium as set forth in claim 24 wherein said default
processing system is a voice mail processing system.

27 26. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said steps
further include playing a recorded message to a caller of
15 said incoming telephone call for at least a portion of time
during said sending.

28 27. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said steps
further include transferring said incoming telephone call to
20 a voice mail processing system if said routing information
is not received within a predetermined period of time after
said sending.

29 28. The medium as set forth in claim 1 wherein said steps
25 further include determining if said routing information
includes a valid second number prior to said transferring.

30 29. The medium as set forth in claim 28 wherein said steps
further include transferring said incoming telephone call to
a voice mail processing system if said routing information
does not include a valid second number.

31 30. A processing system including a system bus, and a
processor, a memory system, and a network interface, all
coupled to said system bus, said processing system being
operable for forwarding an incoming telephone call from a
5 first number to a second number, said processing system
being arranged for receiving said incoming telephone call
and sending a message to a user device for routing
information regarding said incoming telephone call, said
processing system being further operable for receiving
10 routing information from said user device responsive to said
message, and transferring said incoming telephone call in
accordance with said routing information.